

City of Gold Bar

EST. 1910



107 – 5th Street, Gold Bar, WA 98251

City of Gold Bar Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 21, 2026

CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

Mayor Yarbrough called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in hybrid format. Present in person were Councilmembers Craig, Lie, Martin, Russell, and Sears. Staff members present in person included Chief Whalen, Public Works Director Norris, and Clerk Stowe. Office Manager Beaston attended via Zoom.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilmember Russell moved to adopt the agenda as presented and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Yarbrough said the Arbor Day celebration will be Friday at the elementary school at 12:45. He also said that he and staff have been working with Coastal Bank to set up direct deposits. Councilmember Lie said he has oak trees if anyone wanted them. Councilmember Martin also has walnut trees. Councilmember Sears asked if there would be a fee for direct deposits, which there will be.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Whalen reviewed calls including door-to-door solicitation, trash issues, animal control, evictions, nuisance properties, DUI arrests, a fatality collision, and vehicle prowls at Wallace Falls State Park. Councilmember Lie appreciated the effort Chief Whalen put into keeping the council informed. Councilmember Russell asked if the car prowl was along Ley Road or in the Park parking lot. It happened in the parking lot.

Director Norris and staff have been working on playground equipment, preparing holes for tree planting, and working on water system maintenance. He thanked the Council for approving work last year that made flushing much easier this year.

Clerk Stowe said the draft financial report for 2025 is available if any councilmember wanted to review it. If so, she asked that they schedule time with her prior to May 1st. Councilmember Lie asked if she received public records requests, which she does on a regular basis.

Office Manager Beaston said dogs from the county came into city limits and killed goats. Those dogs have been deemed dangerous and an infraction was issued. She also talked about code violations related to garbage, other dogs at large, and that utility bills will be mailed out May 5th. She encouraged people to license their dogs and keep the dogs on their property.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sears apologized for not being able to participate in the last meeting. Councilmember Lie moved to excuse Councilmember Sears' absence and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Councilmember Lie talked about the need to raise pay for city councilmembers, what other city councils are working on within their agendas and minutes, regulations for e-bikes, Sultan's grant to provide a social worker to work with deputies, Snohomish County Tomorrow's agendas for housing topics, Arbor Day and the volunteers who spearheaded that, legislation around changes to the public records process, the need for legislation to back off on affordable housing as cities did not create the problem, and that he would like these issues to be on a future agenda.

Councilmember Russell talked about Arbor Day, scheduled cleanup on Reiter Road set up by the Wild Sky Trail Association, the nice work volunteers have done around the Welcome sign, and the work the Forest Service and volunteers did to clean up the Lake Serene trail.

Councilmember Craig attended the AWC Cities dinner and said it was interesting to see what priorities other councils had. She talked about legislation, the need for state-shared revenue at the city level, and the need to fund city services.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

John Pillion said characterizations that the majority of residents are united against short-term rentals were incorrect. He said contact with neighbors has been welcoming and supportive and some stated being uncomfortable with the pressure exerted to get them to sign petitions.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Skatepark Agreement. The consultant agreement with Prizm for skatepark engineering and bid consultation was presented for action after minor changes suggested by AWC. After review, Councilmember Lie moved to authorize the mayor to enter into this agreement and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Grotto Water System Interlocal. This renews the current interlocal providing services for the Grotto water system. Councilmember Sears moved to authorize signing this interlocal and with a second by Councilmember Russell, the motion carried.

Ordinance #793, Version Banning Short-Term Rentals and Version Restricting Short-Term Rentals. There was a great deal of discussion around the two versions of this draft. Councilmember Lie reiterated his views on why short-term rentals should be banned and moved to accept the version banning them. Councilmember Russell seconded the motion and clarified this action had no bearing on current short-term rentals. Clerk Stowe reminded the Council that not all Councilmembers had been allowed to comment prior to the motion and that the Council could choose to let the motion die for lack of vote in order to allow comment, or to continue with the motion as stated. A vote was called for and the motion failed for lack of vote. Discussion then continued until Councilmember Russell moved to accept the version banning short-term rentals for an introduction and first reading. With a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried with Councilmembers Martin and Craig voting opposed. Clerk Stowe said the draft will now go to the city attorney for review and after that review there will be a public hearing for the second reading and action.

FINAL COUNCIL COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Sears asked about a message he received that he believed to be spam.

Councilmember Martin congratulated Councilmember Craig for work with emergency management. She also said the Chamber of Commerce will host an auction and dinner on April 25th.

COUNCIL MINUTES APPROVAL

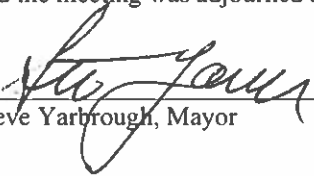
Councilmember Sears moved to approve the April 7th, 2026 minutes as presented and with a second by both Councilmembers Russell and Craig, the motion carried.

VOUCHER APPROVAL

Councilmember Martin moved to approve checks numbering 39129 through 39157 with \$60,363.87 for claims and \$1,728.96 for payroll and taxes, for a grand total of \$62,092.83 and with a second by Councilmember Sears, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Sears moved to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Councilmember Craig, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.


Steve Yarbrough, Mayor


Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer